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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire
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DECISION TO GRANT A EUROPEAN PATENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 97(2) EPC

Following examination of European patent application No. 94113432.2 a European patent with the title and the supporting documents indicated in the communication pursuant to Rule 51(4) EPC dated 19.02.01 is hereby granted in respect of the designated Contracting States. Any modifications which were subsequently requested have been approved by the Examining Division. Any corrections requested by the applicant a f t e r receipt of the communication under Rule 51(6) and received at the EPO on 00.00.00 have been taken into account.

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Designated Contracting States and Proprietor(s) : BE-CH-DE-ES-FR-IT-LI-NL-SE
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This decision will take effect on the date on which the European Patent Bulletin mentions the grant (Art. 97(4) and (5) EPC).

The mention of the grant will be published in European Patent Bulletin 02/03 of 16.01.02.

Examining Division
KRUSPIG S BARRACO G S MUELLER M L

Registered letter

European Patent Number: 0643357

CLAIMS

1. A text input method comprising:

a step for entering a line of text data, character by character;

a dictionary step for storing a plurality of data consisting of a line of text data such as an abbreviation or a shorthand, and associated word data in a dictionary;

characterized in that said associated word data contains one or more relevant words and in that the method comprises:

a step for determining a unique line of text data in said dictionary which includes said entered line of text data, without a further special key depression, at the time of each character input;

a step for entering one or more additional character data and for determining a unique word among plural relevant words which terminates with said entered data, or which includes said entered data in the remaining part of word other than that was successfully collated, without a further special key depression, at the time of each character input; and

a step for replacing said entered line of text data with what was determined by said step for determining said unique line of text data or by said step for determining said unique word, without a further special key depression.

2. A text input method comprising:

a step for entering a line of text data, character by character:

a dictionary step for storing a plurality of lines of text data;

a step for identifying plural lines of text data with the same stem of word in said dictionary each of which include said entered line of text data. entering one or more additional character data, and determining a unique line of text data among said identified plural lines of text data, which terminates with said entered data or which includes said entered data in the remaining part of line of text data other than that was successfully collated, without a further special key depression, at the time of each character input; and

a step for replacing said entered line of text data with what was determined by said step for identifying and determining said unique line of text data, without a furhter special key depression.

3. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the method comprises:

a step for entering a line of text data, and adding 1 to a data input counter, character by character;

a dictionary step for storing a plurality of lines of text data with unique position count given to each line of text data;

a step for determining a unique line of text data with said unique position count in said dictionary which is the same as the contents of said data input counter and which includes said entered line of text data, without a further special key depression, at the time of each character input;

a step for identifying plural lines of text data which include said entered line of text data, and determining a unique line of text data with said unique position count in said

dictionary which is the smallest or largest number among said identified lines of text data, comparing said unique position count with the contents of said data input counter, without being actuated by the depression of a special function key, at the time of character input.

4. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the method comprises:

a step for determining a unique line of text data which has the same first and last parts as those of said entered line of text data and which include some other data between said first and last parts of said entered line of text data, regardless of the continuity of said some other data to be equivalent while collating between said entered line of text data and those in said dictionary, either from left to right comparison for said first part and its following data or from right to left for the comparison for said last part and its preceding data, without being actuated by the depression of a special function key, at the time of character input.

5. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the method comprises:

a step for determining said unique line of text data which has the same leading part as said entered line of text data and which has the same end part as the remaining part of said entered line of text data, without being actuated by the depression of a special function key, at the time of data input.

6. The method of any of the preceding claims,

wherein the method comprises:

a step for entering a line of text data consisting of a string of characters or character strokes:

a dictionary step for storing a plurality of lines of text data consisting of a string of characters or character strokes;

a step for determining a unique line of text data which includes said entered line of text data or which includes the first data followed by some other data of said entered line of text data to enter, without being actuated by the depression of a special function key, at the time of data input:

a step for replacing said entered line of text data with what was determined by said step for determining said unique line of text data, or generating and outputting the print image generated using said line of text data which was determined by said step for determining said unique line of text data.

7. The method of any of the preceding claims, wherein the method comprises:

a step for determining a unique line of text data comprises determining a predetermined number range of lines of text data in said dictionary;

a step for identifying and determining a unique word comprises determining a predetermined number range of words data in said dictionary: and

a step for identifying and determining a unique line of text data comprises determining a predetermined number range of lines of text data in said dictionary.

8. The method of any of the preceding claims.

wherein the method comprises:

a dictionary step for storing a plurality of lines of text data which are organized in a random access manner.